

The Bears Croquet Club at the RAU, Cirencester bearsCroquet.btck.co.uk

December 2017 Newsletter

Wishing Bears, everywhere, a very happy Christmas.



Roddy wonders what his present could possibly be.



"Will anyone notice if I have a little peek?"

Harvey appeared in last month's CROQUET GAZETTE.

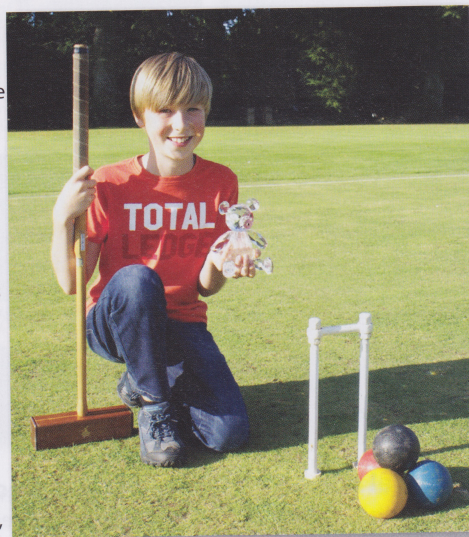
Is Harvey our youngest competitive player?

Dear Editor,
Do we have the youngest competitive croquet player or are there others?

Harvey Smith, 10, discovered croquet last year and is now an enthusiastic member of The Bears CC who play at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester.

He has a GC handicap of 12 (though this is likely to come down soon), and is learning AC with a provisional handicap of 26 (to be 24 when he is able to play a game of singles unaided).

At the club's competition day in



September, he stormed ahead of most of the field ending up in a penalty shoot-out tie-break against one of the club's most senior players before winning the trophy.

Everyone wants to encourage younger people to take up our sport and it would

be good to hear of other clubs who have young members and particularly, what they do to encourage them.

Robert Moss, The Bears CC

The magazine's editor was keen for this letter to be phrased in a way to encourage debate. We wait to see if any other clubs contact us so we can share ideas.

Socials.

Many thanks to Marie for organising her first event, a very successful winter social at Kemble - a massive meal, excellent company and skittles. Future socials dates are shown in the calendar but Marie will send details separately nearer the time.

Committee meeting report.

The committee met in November.

We welcome Clive Edgington as a new member.

Committee roles.

Chairman - Matthew;

Secretary - Robert;

Treasurer - Richard.

Other responsibilities:

Equipment Manager - Matthew;

Lawn Manager - Andy;

Handicapper - Robert;

League Secretary - Robert,

League Manager Adviser - Keith;

Coaching - Caroline (Club) and Robert (Federation).

Having surveyed the membership, we have entered the following leagues for 2018:

B League, Intermediate League and The League for Advanced Play (aka Parkstone League)

We have also entered the one-day Short Croquet Tournament which will be held at Camerton and Peasedown CC in April.

Keith will be advising the new league team captains to ensure they are fully briefed on what needs to be done and Robert will be running a four-week training/coaching programme in April to prepare new members for league play and other members who may be thinking of entering their first tournament.

We discussed the playing needs of our enlarged membership concentrating on encouraging the provision for beginners and the wishes of seasoned players and also the provision for those who prefer to play AC and/or GC. The current suggestion is for two club days each week - possibly Tuesdays when we will play on two half-size courts AC on one and GC on the other which will benefit newer members, and Thursdays when we will play only AC on a full size court. Remember that members can play at any other time by booking the court via the [bearcroquetlawn](#) on-line programme. The committee invites your views on this and any other suggestions you would like to make.

We are exploring the possibility of arranging a weekend club visit to another club in the summer and we will try to ensure that all levels of experience and interest can be catered for.

Look at our website > Gallery > Club Visits to see where we have been before.

We are discussing toilet facilities with the RAU.

Over the winter, we will be assessing the playing equipment and compiling a list of jobs which need to be done in order to make playing next season more enjoyable. When the list is completed, it will be published in February and members will be invited to join in with our improvement programme.

It has been suggested that we could have new club shirts. Watch this space!

We have bought a supply of ball markers so every member can be given their own. It is potentially disastrous to mark ball positions with coins because should one be left on the lawn it could cause several hundred pounds worth of damage to the mower. (Three coins were picked up last season - fortunately before the mower reached them).

As more details for next season become available, we will keep you fully informed.

South West Federation news following the SWF AGM.

- The 2017 season saw 132 teams from 29 South-West clubs enter league competitions with 706 different players taking part. AC and GC are equally strong.
- Robert collected the Parkstone Trophy Division 3 on behalf our club.
- The existing SWF website is outdated and a new one is being designed but progress on this is slower than wished. It is hoped to have a new one up and running by the start of next season.
- Over the next year or two, several of the existing committee will be standing down so they are seeking expressions of interest from anyone who would like to know more about getting involved.
- A handicapping conference is being planned for mid March to assist club members who would like to become club handicappers. This conference will be designed to give the knowledge and confidence members need to be able to fulfil this role and the support available to them once in post. Those wishing to attend the course should play regularly in tournaments and league matches and so regularly see players of differing handicaps. In order to ensure fairness for all, as from 2019 the federation will only accept league entries from clubs with a club handicapper. Currently, there are several clubs who do not have a club handicapper and the federation wishes to support them.



It should not be assumed that all nine federations are similar. The South West is one of the largest and most active of federations organising league matches in both AC and GC with leagues for high, medium and low handicap players to encourage everyone to experience the joys of competitive play.

Diary dates

DECEMBER

Friday 8th

RAU term ends

Friday 8th 7.00 p.m. Social - The Priory, Tetbury, pub night, Fun Quiz and get together.

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2018

JANUARY

Monday 8th

RAU term begins

Saturday 20th

Social - Pavilion Indian Restaurant, Brimscombe. Curry "Christmas" Party (tbc)

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 13th

Social - G Fresh, RAU. Race night (tbc)

MARCH

Wednesday 7th

Social - Pub night - (venue tbc)

Friday 16th

RAU Term ends

Provisional dates - lots more to be added

Tuesday 20th	Start of our season - weather permitting .
Tuesday 27th	Club day

APRIL

Sunday 1st	Easter Day
	Pre-match coaching course tba
Tuesday 3rd	Club Day
Tuesday 10th	Club Day
Friday 13th(tbc)	Short Croquet Tournament at Camerton and Peasedown CC
<i>Monday 16th</i>	<i>RAU Term begins</i>
Tuesday 17th	Club Day
Tuesday 24th	Club DayLeague match dates to be added

MAY

Sunday 13th	National Croquet Day
Sunday x tbc x	Competition Day

JUNE

<i>Friday 22nd</i>	<i>RAU Term ends</i>
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JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

Sunday x tbc x	Competition Day
<i>Monday 24th</i>	<i>RAU Student registration begins</i>

OCTOBER

<i>Monday 1st</i>	<i>RAU Term begins</i>
Monday 22nd	AGM